

Message Text

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INTERIOR:CBOHLEN (DRFT)
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S/P:HBLANEY
DOD/ISA:EMELANSON(DFT)
S/S-MR. BORGN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SENV, US, UR

SUBJECT:US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT: JOINT COMMITTEE
MEETING: INCREASED COOPERATION IN BERING STRAITS REGION

1. REQUEST EMBASSY PASS FOLLOWING DATED SEPTEMBER 26 FROM
EPA ADMINISTRATOR RUSSELL E. TRAIN TO ACADEMICIAN YURI A.
IZRAEL, CHIEF OF MAIN ADMINISTRATION, HYDROMET:

2. "DEAR YURI: AS WE PLAN FOR OUR OCTOBER 28-31 JOINT
COMMITTEE MEETING, MAY I INVITE YOUR ATTENTION TO THE POSSI-
BILITIES FOR INCREASED COOPERATION IN THE BERING STRAITS
AREA, INCLUDING THE BERING SEA, THE CHUKCHI SEA, AND THE
SEWARD PENINSULA AND THE CHUKOTSKY PENINSULA--A SUBJECT
WHICH WE DISCUSSED BRIEFLY AND INFORMALLY DURING OUR
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TALKS IN JUNE.

3. AS YOU ARE AWARE, A NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES UNDER EXISTING PROJECTS OF OUR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT, PARTICULARLY PROJECTS V-1.1 (CONSERVATION OF WILD SPECIES AND FLORA); V-2.1 (PROTECTION OF NORTHERN ECOSYSTEMS), V-6.1 (MARINE MAMMALS), AND VIII-1.1 (EFFECTS OF CHANGES OF HEAT BALANCE OF THE ATMOSPHERE ON CLIMATE), ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY OR IMMEDIATELY RELEVANT TO THIS AREA. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT OTHER PROJECTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE UNDER AREA II (PREVENTION

OF WATER POLLUTION), PROJECT V-4.1 (BIOSPHERE RESERVES), VI-1.1 (PREVENTION AND CLEAN-UP OF MARINE POLLUTION FROM SHIPPING), VI-2.1 (EFFECTS OF POLLUTANTS ON MARINE ORGANISMS), AND THE EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI PROJECTS OF AREA IX COULD EASILY BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COOPERATION IN THE BERING STRAITS REGION. I WOULD WELCOME YOUR GENERAL VIEWS AS WELL AS ANY SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE AT THIS TIME.

4. IN THIS CONNECTION, YOU WILL RECALL THAT IN THE DECEMBER 12, 1974, MEMORANDUM OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE (PAGE 23 OF THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE TEXT) IT IS STATED THAT "PN 1975 THE TWO SIDES WILL EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF . COOPERATION AND THE MEANS OF INVESTIGATING AND PROTECTING BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES OF MUTUAL INTEREST TO THE USA AND USSR IN THE BERING STRAITS REGION."

AS DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR E.U. CURTIS BOHLEN MENTIONED DURING THE DECEMBER 1974 JOINT COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS, THE US SIDE IS INTERESTED IN EXPANDING ARCHEOLOGICAL AND OTHER SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATIONS WHICH WOULD ENRICH OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE HERITAGE OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, INCLUDING ESKIMOS, ON BOTH SIDES OF WHAT WAS FORMERLY THE BERING SEA LAND BRIDGE. WE NOTE THAT OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS A FEW SMALL TEAMS OF ARCHEOLOGISTS FROM BOTH SIDES HAVE MADE SOME EXCHANGE VISITS AND THREE US SPECIALISTS ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND A CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY THE SIBERIAN BRANCH OF THE USSR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES ON THE SUBJECT OF ANCIENT CULTURES OF SIBERIA AND THE PACIFIC COAST. WOULD THE SOVIET SIDE BE PREPARED

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TO EXPAND THESE AND OTHER EXCHANGES UNDER AREA V OF OUR AGREEMENT?

5. CONCERNING THE FIRST PREPARATORY MEETING ON BIOSPHERE RESERVES (PROJECT V-4.1) WHICH YOU WILL BE ATTENDING ON OCTOBER 20-21 IN NEW YORK, THE US SIDE HAS ALREADY DESIGNATED TWO BIOSPHERE RESERVES IN THE BERING STRAITS REGION: THE PROPOSED NOATK NATIONAL ARCTIC RANGE AND THE

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. ANOTHER AREA WHICH COULD BE INCLUDED IN THE BIOSPHERE NETWORK IN THIS REGION IS THE PROPOSED CHUKCHI-IMURUK NATURAL RESERVE LOCATED IN THE SEWARD PENINSULA--A RELIC OF THE BERING SEA LAND BRIDGE AND AN AREA CONTAINING A GREAT DIVERSITY OF TUNDRA COMMUNITIES AND WILDLIFE SIGNIFICANT TO BOTH SIDES. WOULD THE SOVIET SIDE BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE DESIGNATION OF ONE OR MORE BIOSPHERES ON THE SOVIET SIDE OF THE BERING STRAITS AND A SPECIFIC PROGRAM OF COOPERATION IN THIS REGION UNDER THIS PROJECT? IF SO, WE COULD THEN INCORPORATE THE TERMS OF COOPERATION IN THE

JOINT COMMITTEE'S OCTOBER 31, 1975, MEMORANDUM.

6. I LOOK FORWARD WITH KEEN ANTICIPATION TO SEEING YOU ON THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 26 AND TO A SUCCESSFUL JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING.

SINCERELY,

RUSSELL E. TRAIN"

7. REQUEST EMBASSY PASS COPY OF ABOVE TO RONALD SKOOG. KISSINGER

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